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ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

JULY 12, 1967

Ross Yockey

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PRESENT: MR. JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
MESSRS. JAMES ALCOCK, ALVIN OSER, RICHARD BURNES,
ANDREW SCIAMBRA AND WILLIAM MARTIN, ASSISTANT
DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

ROSS YOCKEY

* * * *

Reported by:
Maureen B. Thiel,
Secretary
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

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ROSS YOCKEY, after being duly sworn by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

Q. Please give us your name and occupation?

A. Ross Yockey, reporter for the States-Item.

MR. GARRISON:

Ross, you know William Gurvich late of our office?

A. Yes sir, I do.

Q. In recent months, during the course of your work at the States-Item as a reporter, have you had occasion to encounter Mr. Gurvich?

A. Requently.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to discuss with Mr. Gurvich his role regarding the arrest and announcement of Clay Shaw?

A. Yes, the occasion was in April of this year, after I had spoken to Mr. Gurvich on several occasions the problem arose in my mind and in the mind of another gentleman, who is working with me at the States-Item, Mr. Hoke May, we had come to the conclusion that perhaps there was something to your investigation and the only thing we could not figure out was does Clay Shaw really have anything to do with it, so we went to Bill Gurvich, who had become a fairly close acquaintance of mine and I felt at the time that I had better working arrangement with Gurvich than any of the other news

representatives, he had spoken with me on many occasions and one of the questions I asked him on this particular occasion in April was is there really anything to Clay Shaw's arrest, does it have anything to do with the case? He hedged the point, apparently he did not want to make any remarks about the arrest of Clay Shaw, but at one point in the conversation , which was off the record, one of the points he made was that we should not get too excited about any particular thing that came up, he said you must always be careful not to get excited because you lose your perspective. He said I am not a very excitable man - now believe me, those were his words - and as a matter of fact one of the few times in my life that I have been excited was when I announced the arrest of Clay Shaw. In the same conversation ^{he} said, "Jim", meaning Mr. Garrison, "asked me to come in to his office that night," meaning the night Clay Shaw was arrested, and he told me, "Bill, its your birthday and I've got a birthday present for you, and then he told me he was going to announce the arrest of Clay Shaw." That was the extent of that particular point. I don't remember any other details about this.

- Q. In the course of your conversation with him at that time did he ever express any grave reservations about Mr. Garrison's case?

- A. Jim, I expressed grave reservations about Mr. Garrison's case in the early days that the public had knowledge of the investigation. I expressed doubts and on realizing that I could approach Bill Gurvich I asked him about it. Gurvich seemed to me to be a fairly honest person, he impressed me greatly, I would say, as being a intelligent man and for some reason he seemed to take a liking to me and seemed to want to give me information about the investigation. So I went to him and asked him to tell me something that would let me know there was an investigation and he was the person who convinced me, and I remained convinced to this day, that this is an investigation worth conducting. He alone. He introduced me to Mr. Garrison after he convinced me there was substance to the investigation. He told me he would not be working on it if he felt there was no substance to it.

MR. ALCOCK:

How late, Ross, was sentiment of this nature expressed by him to you?

- A. It would have been, the best I can remember it, that the last time I really talked to Bill was in mid-April, perhaps late April. The reason I can remember this is because Mr. May

and I were working on a magazine article and Mr. Garrison had consented to have a ballistics test conducted for us and we were informed that Mr. Gurvich would conduct the ballistics test and we had to have it finished by the first of June. Gurvich told us it would be finished by the first of June. He said it would be done in the second to last week of April, to the best of my recollection. He told us that and then he went out of sight for a period of time, at least a week, so this would have been in the middle of April and we looked all over for him because we were getting desperate because we did not know whether the test would be conducted or not. I saw him briefly toward the end of the second to last week in April, to the best of my recollection, and he gave me some assurance at that time that the ballistics test would be completed at least by the first week in June. That was the last time I saw him up until very recently.

Q. Thank you.

A. May I ask one thing of the Jury. I have made these statements previously to other newsmen before I was called in by the Grand Jury, nor did I know I would be. I felt there was no real secret about it, and as a matter of fact some of it has been printed in a newspaper already. Of course I

would never say what I testified to before the Grand Jury, but if they asked me what my sentiments were, if they asked me did Gurvich ever lead you to believe he had something in the conspiracy, I have already answered them yes and I don't know whether you would consider it an infringement of your regulations forme to say so again, without referring to that as being part of your investigation.

MR. GARRISON:

You can say what you think as long as you do not indicate what you testified to in here.

FOREMAN:

Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the preceding transcript is a true and correct copy of the testimony given, under oath, in the preceding matter, before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, on the 12th day of July, 1967, and reduced to type-writing by me.

Maureen B. Thiel